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U.S. Says a C.I.A. Agent Sent False Message to Thai Premier

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 5 (AP)—The United States Embassy said today that an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency had sent the Thai Government a false cease-fire offer in the name of a Thai Communist insurgent leader.

Informed sources said the letter was mailed in November from Sakon Nakhon, a provincial capital 350 miles northeast of Bangkok in an area where 1,600 to 2,000 armed rebels are believed to be operating.

The letter was reported to have contained a cease-fire offer in return for local autonomy in "liberated areas" near the Laotian border.

The agent, reliably reported to be an American, was said to have hoped the letter would increase defections of the insurgents to the Government. It was not made clear how he expected this to happen.

The United States Embassy, which acknowledged the sending of the letter after three Bangkok newspapers had reported the matter, said: "The incident of the cease-fire letter was a regrettable, unauthorized initiative."

It said that Ambassador William R. Kintner, who presented his credentials here on Nov. 29, "has directed categorically that no American official be involved in any activity which could be interpreted as interference in Thai internal affairs."

The incident was especially embarrassing to Ambassador Kintner, who has been trying to play down his former career as a United States Army officer, including two years in the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington. He served there from 1950 to 1952 as a planning specialist on paramilitary activities.

Student militants denounced Mr. Kintner as a C.I.A. agent after his arrival and urged that the Government keep careful watch on him.

The embassy statement said that the incident "has been discussed with the appropriate Thai officials," but gave no further details and United States spokesmen would not comment further.

However, informed sources said an account of the affair printed in the Bangkok newspaper *The Nation* was accurate.

U.S. Said To Have Apologized

The *Nation* cited "an unimpeachable source" as saying that the Central Intelligence Agency had apologized to Thai authorities for the incident and that the agent who sent the letter — code-named "Lion" — actually had contacted insurgents in the northeast jungles and had sent the message with good intentions hoping to win more Communist defections.

The letter was signed "Chamras" — the code name of a Central Committee member of the Communist party of Thailand in the northeast, *The Nation* reported.

The newspaper said the agent had put no return address on the letter to Premier Sanya Dharmasakti but the youth who mailed the letter had had it registered and the Government had traced the registration to the agent's address in Sakon Nakhon.

The head of Thailand's anti-Communist military campaign, Lieut. Gen Saiyud Kerdphol, had previously termed the letter's offer ridiculous and qualified officials had expressed suspicion of its authenticity, saying it was not consistent with past Communist strategy.

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